

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-3, 7-9 and 13-25 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 10 and 11 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-4, 7-11 and 13-19 and 21-25 stand rejected in the September 30, 2005 *Office Action*. Claim 20 stands objected to, but allowable if rewritten in independent form in the September 30, 2005 *Office Action*.

Claim Rejections

In the September 30, 2005 *Office Action*: (1) claims 1, 2, 18, 19, 22, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Yamada et al.* (US 6,768,257; hereinafter “*Yamada*”); (2) claims 3, 21 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamada*; and (3) claims 7-11 and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamada* in view of *Nagayama et al.* (US 5,701,055; hereinafter “*Nagayama*”).

The above rejections are respectfully traversed at least for the reasons discussed in the January 18, 2006 *Amendment*. Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention (“one of skill”) would not have been motivated to modify *Yamada* in view of *Nagayama* as alleged in the September 30, 2005 *Office Action*.

Specifically, *Yamada* discloses an active-type organic EL device using a TFT element, where the feature alleged to be similar to the claimed “mask supporting layer,” rib 14, is shaped

to provide conductive layer 14b on an upper surface (see FIG. 4), in order to reduce the resistance of the upper common electrode.

In contrast, *Nagayama* discloses a passive-type organic EL device, where electrodes 3 and 9 are crossed, and ramparts 7 (alleged to be similar to the claimed “mask support layer”) are used for patterning of negative electrodes.

Accordingly, the features cited by the Examiner (*i.e.*, rib 14 and ramparts 7) are not equivalent structures, and are not used for any kind of similar purpose. Further, *Yamada* and *Nagayama* disclose completely opposite types of EL devices.

Thus, one of skill would not have been motivated to modify *Yamada*’s rib 14, which reduces the resistance of the upper common electrode 14b, to a stripe pattern in view of ramparts 7 of *Nagayama*, since the ramparts 7 of *Nagayama* are used for patterning of negative electrodes, not reducing the resistance of electrodes mounted thereon.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 7-9 and 13-26 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-3, 7-9 and 13-26.

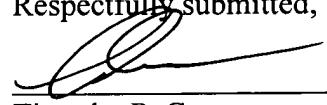
If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Supplemental Amendment
U.S. Application No. 10/041,668

Attorney Docket # Q67887

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 7, 2006